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Gulf States Regional Office

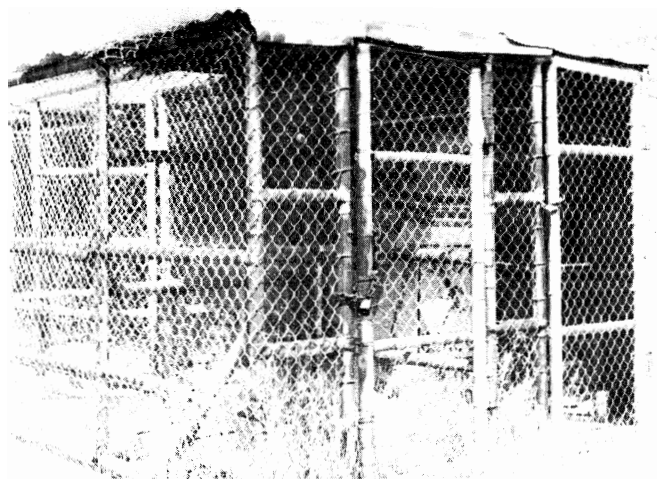
REPORT

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

Spring 1982

New Shelters Become Reality

One of the long-continuing, major cruelties in the Gulf States Region has been the existence of many substandard animal shelters. Although the Region has a number of excellent private and government-operated shelters, at the same time many poor shelters exist in small communities with limited finances.



BEFORE.... This rusted, inadequate pen served as the shelter for hundreds of animals in Robstown, Texas until The HSUS did an inspection and confronted city authorities.

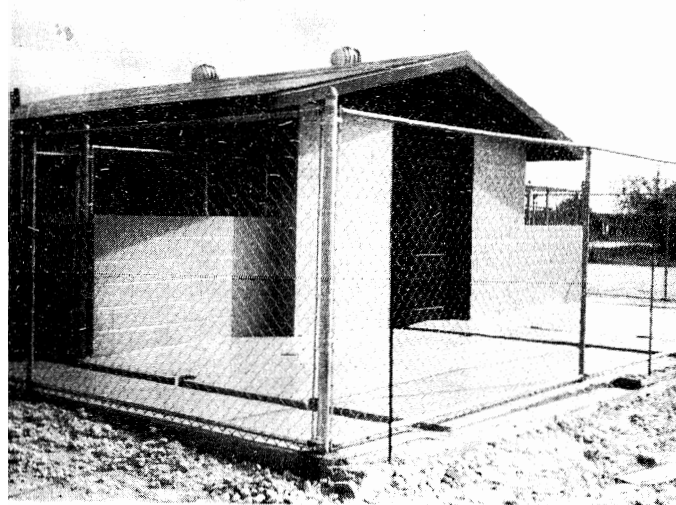
In the winter of 1979, William Meade, HSUS Gulf States Regional Director, made a commitment to confront these problems with renewed determination. A front page story in the Gulf States Regional *Report* told about those substandard shelters and outlined Meade's suggested plans to remedy the situation.

In the intervening two years many important changes and improvements have taken place. Two meaningful laws have been passed in Texas, setting standards for shelters and quarantine facilities. HSUS, along with the Texas Humane Information Network, humane groups, and the Texas Department of Health were the major forces behind these victories.

The Humane Society of the United States has also started distribution of its newly revised booklet on model shelter plans. This booklet contains plans for three new small

shelters that can be built for as little as \$20,000. The Gulf States Office is working with a number of cities throughout the region that are currently building or planning new shelters.

Robstown, Texas, is an excellent example of the progress being made by small towns. This town had a dilapidated exposed wire pen that was used for the animal shelter. Following an inspection by The HSUS Gulf States Director, they were notified of their responsibility under the new laws and help was offered in planning a new facility. The local mayor, Ricardo L. Rodriguez, responded in a positive way and, after a year of planning and guidance from The HSUS and the Texas Department of Health, they now have the modern shelter shown on this page.



AFTER.... With HSUS guidance, Robstown has just completed this new model shelter. Animals will now have a safe and humane stay, thanks to the city's positive action.

If you are living in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, or Texas and your local animal shelter does not furnish the animals with proper shelter, food, and care, contact The HSUS at (512) 854-3142. We will advise you of what laws apply in your state and will furnish you a step-by-step program on how your local shelter can be upgraded.

Oklahoma Combats Dogfighting

Weak laws have caused Oklahoma to become a haven for dogfighters as other nearby states have cracked down on this vicious sport. Legislators in Oklahoma are now making a strong effort to pass effective anti-dogfighting laws.

A recent large raid staged by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation aroused the legislators' interest in this problem. HSUS Gulf States Field Investigator Bernie Weller ac-



His face ripped and bleeding, this pit bull was one of three dogs rescued by The OSBI and HSUS' Bernie Weller at an Oklahoma dogfight.

companied police officers in a raid near Hammon, Oklahoma. Seventy-five people were discovered at the fight and the two alleged promoters were arrested. Three blood-smeared dogs were rescued.

State Senator Mike Combs and State Representative George Osborne introduced two separate bills (S.B. 359 and H.B. 1478) to make dogfighting sponsorship and participation a felony and attendance at dogfights illegal. Dogfighters in Oklahoma have been brazen enough to attend legislative hearings and defend their depraved activity as a wholesome sport. At last report the anti-dogfight bills are making good progress. Before the legislative session is over Oklahoma will probably have a strong new law to combat dogfighting.

Remember Animals In Your Will

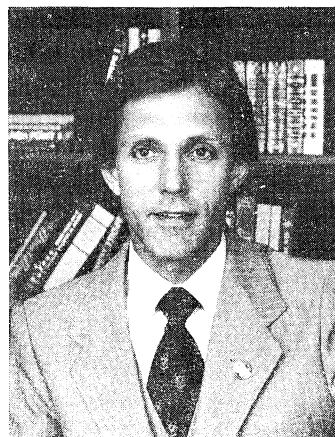
There's only one way to make sure you can help animals after you are gone...make a Will and provide for them in it. HSUS will send you an informative booklet without obligation about how to make the best of your animal welfare bequest.

Write in complete confidence to:
Murdaugh Stuart Madden
Vice President/General Counsel
The Humane Society of the United States
2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037

Humane Euthanasia Method Available to All Texas Shelters

Texas humane societies and animal control agencies may now purchase denatured sodium pentobarbital for euthanasia. Under new state law Article 4476-15 Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes, Section 1, Section 4.11, shelters can obtain a federal permit and order forms to buy this drug.

Sodium pentobarbital is recognized as the most humane and simplest method of animal euthanasia. In the past, many shelters said they used undesirable methods such as shooting, unfiltered engine gases, succostrin, and decompression because sodium pentobarbital was not available to them. Now, the excuse that sodium pentobarbital isn't obtainable can no longer be used to justify these other cruel killing methods. Shelters should write or call the Registration Clerk for the Drug Enforcement Administration Compliance Division, 1880 Regal Row, Dallas, Texas 75235, telephone (214) 767-7250, and request application form number 224. Just fill out the form and submit it with a \$5 fee. You will then receive a packet of purchase forms number 222, which allow you to purchase directly from drug wholesale supply companies. You will be required to keep records of purchase and number of animals euthanized for a two year time period. It is also being recommended that a veterinarian instruct the shelter personnel in correct injection techniques.



Director's Comment

By Bill Meade

Should all cruelty be opposed? What about "popular" cruelty such as rodeo, coon dogging, armadillo races, or rattlesnake round-ups? In our part of the country, there is a lot of peer pressure to ignore animal abuse when it is a part of these so-called sports.

Why do people condone this animal mistreatment? To sum it up in a word, it's "tradition." Because they have been raised around rodeo and other animal events, and because people with money and influence participate, it's easier to overlook this cruelty.

But is "tradition" a sufficient reason to continue activities that needlessly injure animals? We have had other "traditions" in our past such as slavery and public hangings. As a nation of caring people, we have outgrown these "traditions." I maintain, now is the time to outgrow our "traditions" of animal abuse.

HSUS Stops Cruel Killing

A drug called Succinylcholine and sold under the brand labels "Succostrin," "U-Tha-Sol," "Anectine," "Quelicin Chloride," and "Scoline Chloride" is currently being used in some shelters throughout the Gulf States Region for destruction of unwanted animals. Although this drug is not approved by the Food and Drug Administration for animal euthanasia, it is still in use.

Succinylcholine kills by suffocation by paralyzing all body muscles, including the lungs. The insidiousness of this drug is that the animal is fully conscious and aware it cannot gasp another breath. While suffocating, the animal cannot even cry out because all muscles are immobilized. The appearance of Succinylcholine is very deceptive. Due to paralysis, there is no outward sign that the animal is in a state of fear and panic.

Gulf States Regional Director William Meade discovered the Texas cities of Aransas Pass and Ingleside using this drug. City officials, police departments, and veterinarians involved were immediately contacted and warned of the dire consequences of its use. The use stopped under this HSUS pressure.

A number of other shelters in our region still use this inhumane method for euthanasia. The only way to uncover and stop this cruelty is for citizens to find out the local method used and contact HSUS, telephone (512) 854-3142, if these drugs are used.



If an unfortunate animal has to be euthanized it deserves, at the very least, the calmest and most merciful death possible.

Why Rodeo Is Wrong

People who defend rodeo as "good clean American fun" base their argument on several false premises. First, they contend that because good bucking horses and rodeo stock are hard to find and expensive to buy, the stock contractor will be certain to take good care of the animals. If this rationalization were valid, people would take proper care of anything valuable!



In steer-busting the animal is lassoed and thrown to the ground. This animal's face is being dragged through the gravel and dirt.

Next, they allege that more cowboys are injured in rodeo than are animals. Even if this were true, it doesn't dismiss the fact that animals are needlessly injured for entertainment. The cowboy has a choice of whether or not to risk injury. He also has the incentive of big money. The animals have neither a choice nor an incentive, only another rodeo to face.

The rodeo organization's most vocal argument is that injury, torment, and death are not really cruel unless committed intentionally. When these things happen in an arena, the rodeo organizations say it is accidental and therefore doesn't classify as cruelty. The sadistic irony of this position really hits home when you see injured animals being dragged on sleds from the arena, as they sometimes are.

The Humane Society of the United States opposes all needless misuse and abuse of animals. However, the two rodeo events we feel cause the most suffering are calf roping and steer-busting. Calf roping often results in neck injuries when the calf runs out of rope and is jerked off its feet and slammed to the ground. Other harassment is inflicted on the animals by the use of flank straps and misuse of electric prods.

The HSUS Gulf States Office has recently been on TV and radio speaking out in opposition to rodeo cruelty. We are urging all individuals and humane organizations to have the courage to take a public stand against rodeo abuse.

Arkansas Teacher Receives Award

Jacque Briley of Little Rock, Arkansas was recipient of the first "Humane Education Teacher of the Year" award. Also receiving the award was Joan Dawson of Leeds, Alabama.

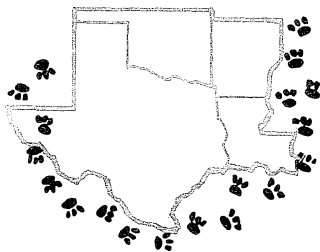
This new annual award was established by The HSUS and The National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education. It is in memory of Jacques Sichel, deceased HSUS board member and deeply dedicated humanitarian.

The award is designed to encourage more classroom teachers to become involved in humane education programming. Local animal welfare groups are encouraged to select a Humane Education Teacher of the Year and nominate their teacher for national competition.

It is hoped the award will help build a foundation for expanded cooperation and support between teachers and humane societies.



First year co-recipients of the "Humane Education Teacher of the Year" award are congratulated by NAAHE Director Kathy Savesky (center). Jacque Briley (right) and Joan Dawson (left) acknowledge the honor.



Around The Region

- *Baton Rouge, Louisiana*—the state wide Coalition of Louisiana Animal Activists (COLAA) is promoting three bills for state law. The bills include anti-dogfighting, general anti-cruelty, and licensing of pets.
- *Galveston, Texas*—The first cruelty case handled by the Animal Shelter & Adoption Center involved a 250 pound lion seized for lack of care. The cat is now living happily at a wildlife refuge.
- *Little Rock, Arkansas*—The Arkansas Humane Association announced they are available to help Arkansas groups start investigation and education programs. Write P.O. Box 5771, Little Rock, AR 72205.
- *Plainview, Texas*—Four abandoned dogs and a cat were seized from a trailer by the Plainview Humane Society. The court awarded custody to the society to find new homes for them.

The Gulf States Regional Report is a publication of:

The Humane Society of the United States
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William R. Meade, III Director

The Gulf States Regional Office serves the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. The office operates Monday through Friday and is closed on federal holidays.

The Humane Society of the United States

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